## Difficulties experienced in the working of the service unpaid system.

**Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—A cover containing certain questions and resolutions sent by me was refused by the Secretary. I do not know on what grounds it was refused.

**Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.**—I am glad that the matter is brought before the Council. The Council Members were given leave by the Government to send franked covers. For a few days after that order, the Council Office used to receive covers from them with no stamps, and it was not asked to pay any sum before they were delivered there. Subsequently, I was asked to pay for such covers. I at once referred the matter to the Anchal Superintendent who sent me this answer:—

"With reference to your letter R. O. C. No. 207/1102, dated 29th March 1927, I have the honour to inform you that, under Anchal Rule 116 (3), Service unpaid articles have to be charged at prepaid rates. The system is worked only to avoid supplying the Members with Service Labels. The articles are not exempt from payment of Anchal charges, like those sent by the Palaces and by the Political Agent. Seeing that even you have to pay postage on your articles, the Council Members' articles also have to be paid for, but the expense is allowed to fall on the addressee's office for convenience.

"Some articles were delivered free by the Anchal Office owing to ignorance; it was found out, and the persons responsible are being dealt with."

But I had no orders to pay for these, and I am no disbursing officer too. So I have placed the whole matter before the Government.

**Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—I had sent some cut motions, and I do not know what has happened to them.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—We were given liberty to send franked covers by a Government order.

**President.**—Why was it not made known? You can pay the amount and recoup it.

**Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.**—Well, I thought that was the proper procedure, but should I not be permitted by the Government to do so? I have written for orders on the subject.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**— May I know whether he referred to the Member and to the President?

**Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Are there two systems? For, first they allowed the letters to pass,

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**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—While I was a servant of the State years ago, investigating the Fisheries, I used to send franked covers.

**Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.**—That was before Service Labels were introduced. It still continues with regard to covers coming from Palaces.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—We are bringing this to your notice so that you may reprimand the Anchal Superintendent.

## Amendments to Standing Orders assented to by His Highness the Maharaja.

**Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.**—Sir, I beg to announce that the draft amendments to Standing Orders 65 and 66 passed by this Council on the 18th of Vrischigam 1102, corresponding to the 3rd of December 1926, have been assented to by His Highness the Maharaja on the 3rd of Meenam 1102, corresponding to the 16th of March 1927.

**Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Does it mean that they have received the assent of His Highness' Government? Is it the assent of His Highness the Maharaja or of some body else? Section 4 refers to this.

**President.**—Is it given under this section?

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—Under section 10 of the Regulation "assent" means "the assent of the Government", and section 13 (2) says that the assent to a Bill is "Our assent." In one "Our Government assent" is used, and in the other "Our assent" means "His Highness' assent".

**President.**—The Government's assent is whose assent? Who is to interpret all these? Who has got the authority to do so?

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—You have got the authority.

**President.**—Throw some light on this point, Mr. Achyuta Menon.

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.**—I don't think anybody is in the dark. Everybody knows.

**Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Nobody knows, Sir.

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.**—His Highness represents the Government.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—We were ignorant of that definition. Now we accept it.

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.**—His Highness has full control. He delegates his authority to the Diwan and the Heads of Departments. The decision of the Government means the decision of His Highness.

**President.**—"Our assent" is, no doubt, His Highness' assent. There cannot be any mistake with regard to this.

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